subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd. This Sub-Committee was also to examine stocking policy and the system of receipt and despatch of coal from collieries/ stockyards of Coal India Limited. The Sub-Committee in its meeting held on 23rd October' 90 at New Delhi had decided that two members of the Sub-Committee would visit Western Coalfields Ltd.'s areas on October, 28th 1990. However, only one member of the Sub-Committee could undertake the visit. On the basis of his field visit, the Hon'ble member has submitted a report to the Chairman of the Sub-Committee with a copy to the Secretary, Deptt. of Coal. In this report, shortages in pithead coal stocks at Hindustan Lalpeth, Ballarpur, Dhuptala and Sanli opencast mines to the extent of approx. six lakh tonnes have been mentioned on the basis of measurements taken with the help of surveyors. Hon'ble member has also suggested some measures for stopping theft of coal including doing away with private transportation of coal.

Coal India Ltd. has been advised to fix responsibility for the shortages and initiate disciplinary proceedings against the persons responsible after placing them under suspension. Further CBI has been requested to take up detailed investigations in these shortages. Comptroller and Auditor General of India has also been requested to undertake special audit of coal stocks.

Blast in Indian Petrochemicals Corporation's plant

433. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a blast occurred in the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation's Nagothane Plant in November, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of loss of lives and property due to the blast; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. P. MALAVIYA). (a) and (b) Yes Sir. At above 7.15 p.m. on 5.11.1990 an explosion followed by fire took place at the Feedstock, receipt, chilling and storage sector of the Complex outside the batery limits of the main gas cracker.

(c) 31 persons have lost their lives and four suffered major burn injuries. Considerable damage has occured to the pipelines and other equipments in the affected section. The Preliminary estimate of damages is of the order of Rs. 50 crores

(d) On 14-11-1990 Government set up a high powered enquiry committee of technical experts under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Director, National Chemical Laboratory to look into the causes of accident and to recommend appropriate measures to avoid any such future incidents.

Fire in LPG Tanker

434. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a tanker carrying LPG from Mathura to Jalandhar caught fire at a village near Patiala on 17th December, 1990 resulting in the death of some persons;

(b) if so, what are the details of the incident;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered by his Ministry to find out the actual reasons for the explosion; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) A tank truck carrying bulk LPG met with an accident and caught fire in the night of 16th December, 1990 at village Ghanauri Khera, Distt. Patiala. As per information available on 28-12-1990, 27 persons died, 52 houses destroyed, 30 houses partially damaged and 127 heads of cattle have perished in the accident. A police case has